Int. Appl. No.: PCT/EP2003/007470

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (New) A reclining element, comprising:

a swingable backrest;

a headrest hingedly connected to one end of the backrest;

an electromotive adjustment device for moving the backrest and the headrest,

said adjustment device including at least one spindle, a drive motor for

operating the spindle, and at least one adjusting element placed upon the

spindle for movement in a longitudinal direction of the spindle between two

end positions; and

an articulated lever having one end linked to the adjusting element and

another end connected to the backrest for raising the backrest when the

adjusting element moves from one of the end positions to the other one of the

end positions, said articulated lever being constructed to act like a toggle

lever.

14. (New) The reclining element of claim 13, and further comprising a footrest

hingedly connected to another end of the backrest, said adjustment device

being operatively connected to the footrest for moving the footrest between an

extended position in which the footrest is flat and a raised position.

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15. (New) The reclining element of claim 13, wherein the spindle is a threaded

spindle.

16. (New) The reclining element of claim 13, wherein the articulated lever has

first and second levers having confronting ends which are connected by a

joint, said first lever having another joint-distal end which is linked to the

adjusting element, and said second lever having another joint-distal end

which is linked to the backrest, wherein a movement of the adjusting element

from the one end position causes the joint to execute a guided linear

movement and a rotational movement that leads to a blocking of the

articulated lever when the first and second levers assume a particular

disposition relative to one another.

17. (New) The reclining element of claim 16, and further comprising a fixed guide

pin which is provided in an area of the joint and so supported during the

rotational movement of the joint on a stationary slideway that the backrest is

swingable to assume a position of optimum lever ratio to facilitate a

continuous raising of the backrest.

18. (New) The reclining element of claim 17, wherein the guide pin is disposed in

offset relationship to the joint.

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19. (New) The reclining element of claim 18, wherein the guide pin is positioned in closer relationship to the backrest than the joint, when the adjusting element is in the one end position.

20. (New) The reclining element of claim 18, wherein the guide pin and the joint are positioned at substantially same vertical height, when the adjusting element reaches the other end position.

21. (New) The reclining element of claim 17, wherein the guide pin and the joint are arranged in concentric superimposed relationship.

22. (New) The reclining element of claim 16, wherein the first lever is provided with a fixed stop constructed to effect the blockage of the articulated lever and impacted by a joint proximal area of the second lever, when the first and second levers assume the particular angular disposition.

- 23. (New) The reclining element of claim 16, and further comprising a crossbar for connecting opposite side portions of the backrest, said second lever being supported on the crossbar.
- 24. (New) The reclining element of claim 13, and further comprising at least one crank mechanism for swinging the headrest in response to a movement of the adjusting element.

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25. (New) The reclining element of claim 24, and further comprising a crossbar for connecting opposite side portions of the backrest, wherein the crank mechanism includes a crank supported on the side portions of the backrest and having one end connected to the crossbar and another end, and a connecting rod having one end articulated to the other end of the crank.

26. (New) The reclining element of claim 25, and further comprising a bracket fixedly secured to a side portion of the headrest and provided for articulation of a crossbar-distal end of the connecting rod.

27. (New) The reclining element of claim 16, wherein the headrest upon lifting moves in a particular position against a stop of the backrest such that the backrest is raised slightly so that the headrest executes a leading movement in relation to the backrest in a manner that upon further raising of the backrest the articulated lever is blocked to act like a rigid lever.

28. (New) The reclining element of claim 13, and further comprising two of said spindle, said two spindles being driven by the drive motor which is so constructed as to allow operation of one of the spindles or both spindles.

29. (New) The reclining element of claim 28, wherein the drive motor is a geared motor.